



**Royce Toney**  
**Sheriff**

Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office  
P. O. Box 1803  
Monroe, LA 71210-1803  
Telephone (318) 329-1200  
[www.opso.net](http://www.opso.net)

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June 20, 2012

Mair & Camiel, P.S.  
710 Cherry Street  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Mr. Camiel:

Enclosed are the files you requested on any departmental complaints, citizen complaints or disciplinary actions of any type involving Jay Via.

If we can be of further service, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Sincerely,

Col. Marc Mashaw  
Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office

MM/jd

*Peter K. Muir  
Peter A. Camiel*

*Law Offices of  
MAIR & CAMIEL, P.S.  
710 Cherry Street  
Seattle, Washington 98104*

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*Of Counsel:  
James S. Rummonds*

May 24, 2012

Public Records Custodian  
Ouachita Parish Sheriff Office  
P.O. Box 1803  
Monroe, LA 71210-1803

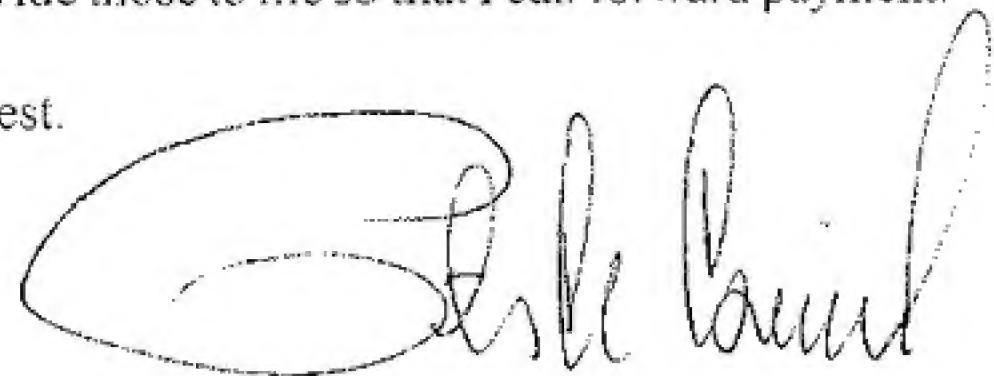
RE: Louisiana Public Records Act Request

By this letter I am making a public records request to the City of Monroe, Louisiana for all records pertaining to any departmental complaints, citizen complaints or disciplinary actions of any type involving Ouachita Parish Sheriff Department employee *Jay Via*. This request includes any such materials for the period of time that Jay Via was employed by the Ouachita Parish Sheriff Department in any capacity even if he is no longer so employed.

In your response to this request if you believe any of the requested documents are exempt from disclosure please provide the statutory basis you are relying upon.

If there are copying costs incurred please provide those to me so that I can forward payment.

Thank you for your assistance with this request.



Peter A. Camiel



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**RICHARD FEWELL**  
OUACHITA PARISH SHERIFF & EX-OFFICIO TAX COLLECTOR  
PHONE 318-329-1200 FAX 318-329-1249  
P. O. BOX 1803 - MONROE, LA 71210-1803

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March 8, 2001

Lt. Jay Via  
C/o Metro Narcotics

**HAND-DELIVERY**

Dear Lt. Via:

Several incidents have been brought to my attention concerning your failure to make reports that are necessary in the daily operation of the department. Your failure to make these reports in a timely manner, or failure to make these reports at all, is something that simply cannot and will not be tolerated.

Based upon recommendations from your supervisors, you are suspended for a period of two (2) days, without pay, for violation of Department Policy Page E-23, Dereliction of Duty, Failure to Make Proper Report of Offenses Investigated, Observed or Reported.

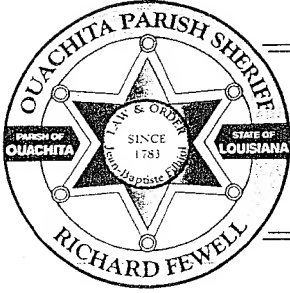
Very truly yours,

RICHARD FEWELL, SHERIFF

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Joe V. Davis  
Chief Deputy

rw  
cc: Payroll  
chieff.via



# RICHARD FEWELL

OUACHITA PARISH SHERIFF & EX-OFFICIO TAX COLLECTOR

P.O. BOX 1803 - MONROE, LA 71210-1803

CIVIL OFFICE 318-329-1270 TAX OFFICE 318-329-1280 FAX 318-329-1275

March 6, 2001

Sheriff Richard Fewell  
400 St. John Street  
Monroe, LA

Sheriff Fewell:

In late November of 2000, myself and Major Willis contacted Lt. Jay Via at Metro Narcotics in reference to delays of reports from the Metro Narcotics Unit, to the Ouachita Parish District Attorney's Office. During this conversation, a report assigned to Lt. Via, a Homicide, was brought to his attention. This Homicide, reported on January 2, 2000 to the Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office (case number 00-000074), had been worked by Lt. Via, and there had been warrants obtained and an arrest made. However, there was never a supplemental report made by Lt. Via in the Records Division indicating any of his investigation. He was advised during this meeting to turn in this report as soon as possible, and indicated that it would not be a problem. Lt. Via stated that he had turned it in previously and had a copy in his personal computer. Major Willis had to re-contact him approximately two weeks later and again tell him to get the report turned into the Records Division.

Approximately two weeks ago, I learned from the Ouachita Parish District Attorney's Office that they were looking for information regarding a case where money was seized. When checking on this, I reviewed a report in the District Attorney's Office and observed where a supplemental report was done by Sgt. Caviness, who referred to Lt. Via's initial report. However, there was no initial report filed by Lt. Via. I proceeded once again to Metro Narcotics where I spoke to Lt. Via and asked him why there was not a report on file in reference to the case where money was seized. He indicated that he had turned one in and "it should have been there." Lt. Via then pulled the initial report from his personal computer at Metro Narcotics. I then gave a copy of this report to the Metro Narcotics secretary, and hand carried a copy to the District Attorney's Office, turning over a copy to Connie Fuller for her to update their file. I have not spoken to Lt. Via anymore concerning this case, however, I did retrieve from Metro Narcotics, a copy of two reports that pertain to this incident (M.N.C. #00-0323 and #00-0213). In reviewing these cases, it appears that Lt. Via failed to turn in a Metro Narcotics initial report form on case #00-0323, and I can not find a supplemental report indicating his involvement in these cases. It appears that he questioned certain parties, but I show nothing to indicate that statements were

taken. I can not even tell from this report if arrest were made concerning these allegations. Also, when I initially spoke to Lt. Via, I learned that evidence had been recovered in reference to case #00-0213, and this evidence had been sitting in his office since November 6, 2000 and had not been properly logged in.

On February 21, 2001, Cpl. Carol Wright was checking on disposing of some evidence from a case in March of 1998 (O.P.S.O. case number 98-07246). This was a case of Illegal Alcohol Sales. In this case, it appears that Lt. Via made several purchases and logged these into evidence. However, there is not a supplemental report to indicate this. It appears that this case was never completed and the District Attorney's Office was never provided with any reports for prosecution.

After these incidents came to light, I checked further and found that another case (O.P.S.O. case number 00-002463) that was assigned to Lt. Via, was incomplete. This case shows an Affidavit For Arrest initiated by Lt. Via, but no supplemental report indicating his total investigation. Another case (O.P.S.O. case number 99-037908) showing assigned to Lt. Via, indicates a recorded statement taken by Lt. Via and Sgt. Ludlow, but again, no supplemental report. Also, case number 99-041160, classified as a Robbery, shows closed as a domestic problem, but gives no supplemental report indicating any information as to how this was domestic.

At this time, I believe these reports show a clear pattern of Lt. Via's failure to properly document his investigations. There is no doubt that his failure to comply with customary procedures in report writing, could jeopardize or at least, hamper these investigations. It is my opinion that Lt. Via has violated Section 3:35, page E20 - E21, Dereliction Of Duty.

On March 6, 2001, Major Willis and myself spoke to Lt. Via about these incidents. Lt. Via maintains that he did do some of these reports, but did acknowledge he may have failed to do others. Lt. Via was advised that failure to properly document or make necessary supplemental reports would not be condoned. He was also advised that a recommendation on these reports would be forwarded to Sheriff Fewell.

In our opinion, Major Willis and Captain Rowdon, Lt. Via should be given two days off without pay. He was advised if there were reoccurring problems in this area, our recommendation would be severe.

Thank you,



Captain Scott Rowdon  
Investigation Division

cc: Chief Joe Davis  
Major Pat Willis

659 Dudley Dr.  
Shreveport, LA 71104  
Jan. 3, 1995

Sheriff Laymon Godwin  
Ouachita Parish  
Monroe, LA 71201

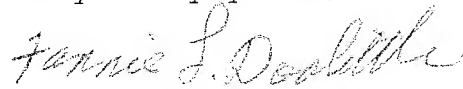
Dear Sir:

I am writing inreference to one of your employees, Mr. J. E. Via, a deputy of yours. He is a member of, I guess you could say a partnership or co-owner of some property here in Shreveport, Caddo Parish, La. The interest was left to him when his father died. Every year since his father's death someone else has had to pay his share of the taxes for this property.

We are not talking about that much money. For 1994 his portion was \$12.40 and in other years has been about the same. His sister Mrs. Norman paid the other two years but has refused this year. He also owes an attorney bill for \$18.75 that is three years old. Can you help us?

We would appreciate any light you could shed on this as he never responds.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fannie L. Doolittle".

Fannie L. Doolittle

To: Capt Springfield  
From: Lt. Rowden

Not to be opened by  
Anyone other than  
Sheriff Godwin

OR  
Chief Deputy Richard Fewell, sr.

9/3/93



Capt Springfield

8-25-93

ON 8-24-93 I WAS MADE AWARE OF A CALL WE HANDLED IN THE WEST RIDGE AREA. THIS CALL WAS R.F. TO A PROWLER AND SGT VIA REPORTED THIS AFTER BEING FLAGGED DOWN. VIA WAS IN HIS UNIT & REPORTED THIS BY RADIO.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT VIA WAS WORKING ON THAT HE HAPPEARED TO BE IN AREA. TO BE FLAGGED DOWN IN HIS UNMARKED UNIT STRUCK ME A LITTLE UNUSUAL. ALSO, I HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT PRIOR TO THIS INCIDENT <sup>(ANOTHER DATE)</sup> BY T. BOLDING WAS GOING HOME AND SAW A SUSPICIOUS INDIVIDUAL WALKING AROUND, HE LOCATED A VEH. AND CALLED BY JUDD TO RUN 28 AND VEH. CAME BACK TO JAY.

I RECEIVED MY INFORMATION FROM CPL WHITAKER WHO HAD TALKED WITH BY RUTLEDGE & FOWLER. BY RUTLEDGE WAS SENT AS BACKUP FOR SGT VIA WHEN HE REPORTED PROWLER, AND BY FOWLER WAS WORKING RADIO. BY RUTLEDGE INDICATED TO CPL WHITAKER THAT HE THOUGHT THIS CALL TO BE A LITTLE STRANGE. ALSO, WHEN THE CALL CAME IN BY JUDD INFORMED FOWLER OF THE INFO THAT BOLDING HAD CALLED IN ON THE OTHER DATE.

I HAVE TALKED WITH FOWLER AND CONFIRMED THAT SHE DID RECEIVE THIS INFO FROM JUDD, HOWEVER I HAVE NOT TALKED AT ALL TO RUTLEDGE, BOLDING, OR JUDD.

Having been made aware of this info I do see how it could cause some concern and talk about a fellow officer. I know I have very little info on this matter and that there may well be a very simple explanation to the two incidents and I hope this is the case. However, I could ~~become~~ become suspicious very easily with info I now have.

I am writing this so you will be aware of the info and can talk to the other officers I have mentioned. Maybe you can check with them and tell me my suspicion is unwarranted. I will not pursue this any further unless you advise me too. If you check on this I would like to be made aware of your findings

Thanks  
Rowden

PS: Around 2300 hrs Jay called about a problem around his house, by which time I was out on that one. He's getting involved in a lot of problem calls.

FILE OF SGT. JAY VIA 10/12/93

TO BE OPENED ONLY BY SHERIFF OR  
CHIEF DEPUTY



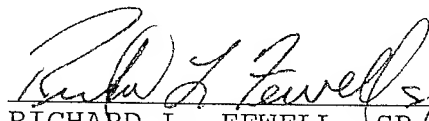
October 12, 1993

**MEMO TO:** File of Sgt. Jay Via  
**SUBJECT:** Discussion on October 12, 1993

On this date, I talked with Sgt. Jay Via about the allegations made against him concerning prowling incidents. He was advised that these allegations tend to surface whenever his personal life is under great pressure.

I advised him that I was not asking for an admission of guilt, however, he was to go to a counselor for some type of professional help. Sgt. Jay Via advised he did have some problems was currently seeking counseling help; however, if this was one of the problems it would not happen again.

Sgt. Via was told that if there were any future occurrences such as this, he would be subject to disciplinary action up to termination.

  
RICHARD L. FEWELL, SR.  
CHIEF DEPUTY

RLF/tg

FILE OF SGT. JAY VIA  
TO BE OPENED ONLY  
BY SHERIFF OR CHIEF DEPUTY





Laymon Godwin

SHERIFF AND EX-OFFICIO TAX COLLECTOR  
OUACHITA PARISH

CRIMINAL DEPARTMENT

P. O. Box 1803

MONROE, LOUISIANA 71210-1803

Telephone 318/329-1200

June 11, 1992

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMO TO: File of Sgt. Jay Via

SUBJECT: Expense Money

At approximately 8:15 a.m. on Wednesday, June 10, 1992, I met with Mr. Larry Norris of Metro Narcotics Unit. Mr. Norris advised that Sgt. Via had a \$900 informant fund while at Metro Narcotics. Upon Sgt Via's being transferred out of the Unit, he could not account for the \$900 fund in either receipts or cash.

Mr. Norris asked that we allow him to continue dealing with Sgt. Via in reference to the fund. I informed him that I would give him until the end of the month to either have Sgt. Via submit receipts or the cash.

It should also be noted that the reason Sgt. Via was transferred out of Metro Narcotics was due to his unauthorized use of credit cards for expenses.

*Richard L. Fewell Sr.*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
RICHARD L. FEWELL, SR.  
CHIEF DEPUTY

tg





**Laymon Godwin**  
SHERIFF AND EX-OFFICIO TAX COLLECTOR  
OUACHITA PARISH

**CRIMINAL DEPARTMENT**

August 30, 1991

P.O. Box 1803  
MONROE, LOUISIANA 71210-1803  
Telephone 318/329-1200

Sgt. Jay Via  
Metro Narcotics Unit  
Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Dept.  
Monroe, LA 71201

Dear Sgt. Via:

Reports and recommendations have been received from your supervisors concerning your failure to submit time sheets in a timely manner. Due to your negligence, another deputy took 26 hours compensatory time which were not due to him.

Based upon the recommendations of your supervisors and the concurrence of Sheriff Godwin, the following disciplinary action is administered:

You are suspended without pay for a period of twenty-six (26) hours. These 26 hours will be deducted from your September paycheck.

As a supervisor, we would remind you that you are responsible for keeping records in an accurate and timely manner.

A copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file maintained by this department.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Fewell, Sr.  
Chief Deputy

tg

cc: Major Worley  
Payroll Section



**Laymon Godwin**  
SHERIFF AND EX-OFFICIO TAX COLLECTOR  
OUACHITA PARISH

**CRIMINAL DEPARTMENT**  
P.O. Box 1803  
MONROE, LOUISIANA 71210-1803  
Telephone 318/329-1200

M E M O

TO: Sheriff Laymon Godwin  
Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Department

FROM: Richard Fewell, Sr.  
Chief Deputy

DATE: August 29, 1991

RE: Failure of Sgt. Jay Via to turn in monthly time sheets in  
a timely manner.

I have received recommendations from Major Worley and Col. Struben in reference to Sgt. Jay Via failing to turn in a monthly time sheet on Dy. Kelvin Murphy after being requested by Major Worley and Major Brown to furnish this information.

Sgt. Via's failure to comply with this request resulted in Dy. Kelvin Murphy taking twenty six (26) hours in K-time that he had not earned.

After reviewing this matter, I respectfully request Sgt. Via be suspended for a total of twenty six (26) hours.

Sincerely,

*Richard L. Fewell Sr.*  
Richard L. Fewell, Sr.  
Chief Deputy

OK  
be



## Metro Narcotics Unit Ouachita Parish

4341 Cypress St., West Monroe, LA 71291

Phone: (318) 396-9316

August 26, 1991

Major Michael J. Worley  
Ouachita Parish Sheriff Department  
Criminal Investigative Division

Re; Time Sheet Delay

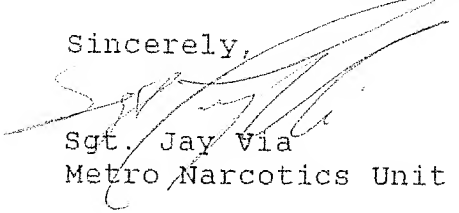
Major Worley,

With regard to our phone conversation this date, I can only respond by stating that when you asked me to have Deputy Murphy's time and attendance record to you by 1600 hrs on Tuesday, August 20, 1991, I indicated that it might be after 1700 hrs before that could be accomplished. This record was completed and placed in an envelope and was to be delivered to Major Brown before 1000 hrs. on August 21, 1991 by Det. Larry Norris. As I left town on that date for investigative reasons, I was unaware that the package was not delivered.

With regard to the other time records, I can only say that it is my fault that you have not been provided them in a timely manner. As you are aware of our conversation on August 20, 1991 I have, hopefully, instituted new measures which will help alleviate this problem. Beginning this date, you will be provided a weekly update of all our time records so that your records will be current. I apologize to you for any inconveniences or problems my negligence may have caused for you.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Sincerely,

  
Sgt. Jay Via  
Metro Narcotics Unit

B-27-91

To: Chief Fewell

Re: Time sheets from Metro Narcotics

Dear Chief,

Sgt. K. Murphy was transferred from Metro Narcotics on July 19, 1991. He was assigned to O.C.C. but due to a shortage of manpower he was sent to help Major T. Brown.

Major Brown told me that he requested from Sgt. Via, on at least 5 occasions, his time sheet. Major Worley also requested from Sgt. Via Sgt. Murphy's time sheets.

Each request was ignored and when I became aware of the problem later when Major Brown needed to know how much "K" time Sgt. Murphy had on the books because he was going to summer camp and was requesting "K" time. I called for Sgt. Via and he was on vacation so I told Major Brown to go ahead and let Murphy take so his "K" time because he assured Major Brown that he had more than enough.

After Sgt. Via came back to work I told Major Worley to get me the time sheets so I could check on the "K" time taken by Murphy. Major Worley called Sgt. Via and instructed him to bring the time sheets to his office by 1600 hrs that date. The time sheets never arrived.

The next day I called Metro Narcotics for Sgt. Via and was told that he was in Houston, Texas on an investigation.

I then spoke with Det. B. Boney of Metro to find out when Sgt. Via would be back in town and he said it would be 3 to 4 days.

I explained to Boney that I needed the time sheet and in about 30 minutes they were brought to me by Det. Boney and Sgt. Benjamin.

I checked the time sheet and learned that he only had 54 hrs. "K" time on the books and that he had taken 80 hours therefore owing the department 26 hours.

All of this could have been avoided if Sgt. Via would have complied with numerous request from Major Wooly and Major Brown.

I know that this may seem to be a small problem but Sgt. Via in my opinion was neglecting his duties and therefore I recommend that he be suspended with out pay for a period of 2 days, (16 hours).

John P. Straten

EMPLOYEE'S ABSENCE RECORD FOR 1991

NAME DY. KELVIN MURPHY SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 111-11-1111 DATE EMPLOYED 10-3-88 DEPARTMENT Metro Narcotics (Investigation)

	S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S			S			M			T			W			T			F			S		
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ABSENCE CODE

S - SUSPENSION  
I - ILLNESS

V - VACATION  
H - HOLIDAY

DF - DEATH IN FAMILY  
OI - OCCUPATIONAL INJURY

KE - K-TIME EARNED  
KT - K-TIME TAKEN

SICK LEAVE BALANCE FROM 1990  
SICK LEAVE EARNED 1991  
TOTAL  
LESS SICK LEAVE TAKEN 1991  
SICK LEAVE BALANCE FOR 1992

Atk: As of 7-18-91 KT earned = 57 hrs

25

8.26-91

TO: LTC STRUBEN

RE: Sgt J. VIA 's FAILURE TO TURN IN  
TIME SHEETS

LTC STRUBEN,

FOR THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS I HAVE ASKED Sgt. VIA FOR TIME SHEETS FOR THOSE ASSIGNED TO METRO NARCOTICS, SO THAT I COULD KEEP UP WITH THEIR OVERTIME, K-TIME, ETC.

EACH TIME Sgt VIA FAILED TO SEND THEM TO ME AND MADE EXCUSES FOR NOT TURNING THEM IN AS REQUESTED.

RECENTLY, Dy KEVIN MURPHY WAS TRANSFERRED FROM METRO NARCOTICS & TEMPORARILY ASSIGNED TO MAJ. BROWN BEFORE BEING PERMANENTLY TO OCC. IT WAS THEN NECESSARY FOR MURPHY'S TIME SHEET TO BE TRANSFERRED TO MAJ. BROWN.

I LEARNED THAT MAJ. BROWN HAD REQUESTED MURPHY'S TIME SHEET FOUR OR FIVE TIMES AND Sgt. VIA IGNORED EACH REQUEST.

I THEN CONTACTED Sgt. VIA AND INFORMED HIM THAT I WANTED Dy MURPHY'S TIME SHEET ON MY DESK BEFORE 4:00 PM THAT DAY. Sgt. VIA ASSURED ME AGAIN THAT HE WOULD BRING THEM. APPROX 1HR LATER Sgt VIA ARRIVED AT THE INV. OFFICE WITHOUT THE TIME SHEET. HE ALSO FAILED TO DELIVER THEM AT ALL THAT DAY.

ON THE NEXT DAY HE TRAVELED  
OUT OF TOWN AND MADE NO ARRANGEMENTS  
TO HAVE THE TIME SHEET DELIVERED.

THE TIME SHEET WAS FINALLY DELIVERED  
BY CPL BENJAMIN PER YOUR REQUEST.

I HAD MADE MYSELF VERY CLEAR  
TO SGT VIA PRIOR TO HIS LEAVING TOWN  
THAT HE MAY FACE TIME OFF W/O PAY  
SHOULD THE TIME SHEET NOT BE  
DELIVERED.

I ALSO TALKED WITH HIM THIS MORNING  
(8:26-91) AND INFORMED HIM OF POSS.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION — REQ IN WRITING  
AN EXPLANATION FOR HIS FAILURE TO TURN  
OVER THE TIME SHEET BEFORE NOON.  
HE ADV. THAT HE REALLY HAD NO EXCUSE  
BUT WOULD WRITE UP HIS EXPLANATION.

IT IS NOW NOON AND I HAVE NOT  
REC. ANYTHING FROM SGT. VIA!

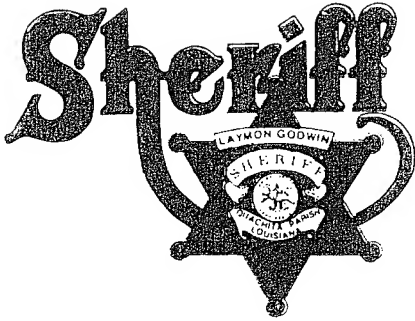
I WAS PLANNING TO WAIT UNTIL I  
GOT SGT. VIA'S WRITTEN EXPLANATION BEFORE  
MAKING MY RECOMMENDATION BUT IT  
MAY NEVER GET HERE!

I AM NOW RECOMMENDING THAT  
SGT VIA BE SUSPENDED W/O PAY FOR  
A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN 3 DAYS  
NOR MORE THAN 5 DAYS.

I FEEL THAT SGT VIA HAS LOST  
HIS REGARD FOR AUTHORITY & HIS  
RESPONSIBILITY TO HIS SUPERVISORS  
AND TO THE OPERATION OF THIS DEPARTMENT.

Respectfully  
Maj. Mike W. [Signature]





# Laymon Godwin

SHERIFF AND EX-OFFICIO TAX COLLECTOR  
OUACHITA PARISH

---

CRIMINAL DEPARTMENT

P. O. Box 1803  
MONROE, LOUISIANA 71210-1803  
Telephone 318/329-1200

July 29, 1991

Sgt. Jay Via  
Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office  
Monroe, LA 71210

Dear Jay:

Re: Vehicle Incident on February 26, 1991

The Fleet Accident Review Board met on July 17, 1991, and considered the above incident. The Board has ruled this incident to be "simple fault."

Based upon their recommendations and the concurrence of Sheriff Godwin, this letter of reprimand will be placed in your personnel file maintained by this department.

We would admonish you to always use extreme care when operating departmental vehicles in the future.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Fewell, Sr.  
Chief Deputy

tg

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Sgt. James Ratcliff, Chairman  
Fleet Accident Review Board

**FROM:** Terrie Gregory

**DATE:** June 5, 1991

**SUBJECT:** Accident Involving Sergeant Jay Via

Attached is an accident report involving Sgt. Jay Via on February 26, 1991. Our unit was struck in the rear by another vehicle. No damage to our vehicle.

He has the following incidents in the last three years.

07/10/89	Involved in incident while trying to make drug stop. FARB ruled "no fault."
09/01/88	Other party ran stop sign and was hit by Via's unit. FARB ruled "no fault."
07/19/88	While backing out of his carport, Via struck a column with his unit. Damages were \$50. FARB ruled "simple fault." Letter of reprimand sent.

tg

[illegible]

[illegible]

VEH	ORIENTATION BEFORE ACCIDENT		COURT SYMBOL AND INITIALS	FINAL LOCATION OF VEHICLES	DIRECTION TRAVELING AFTER IMPACT	SPEED		SKID MARK DATA		
	MOVED	ON BRIDGE OR HIGHWAY				EST.	NOTED	PR	A	AM
1	South	Old Interline	N	on Road	UNK	20	35	N	0	n e
2	South	Old Interline	A	on Road	UNK	0	35	N	0	n e

Q Describe any unusual circumstances associated with the accident, including location and relevant road conditions, weather conditions, etc. (Add to north vehicle if no)

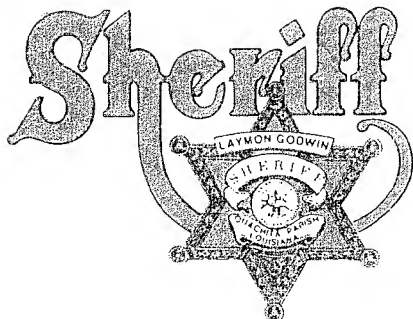
A Veh 1 a 3 all heading south on old Sterlington Rd  
 Veh 3 stopped then Veh 2 stopped, Veh 1 struck Veh 2  
 which then was thrust into Veh 1





DESCRIBE ANY UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES ASSOCIATED WITH THE ACCIDENT, WITNESSES NAMES, ADDRESSES, ETC. (REFER TO EACH VEHICLE BY NO.)

SEE ACC REPORT For Veh 152



# Laymon Godwin

SHERIFF AND EX-OFFICIO TAX COLLECTOR  
OUACHITA PARISH

CRIMINAL DEPARTMENT

P. O. Box 1803

MONROE, LOUISIANA 71210-1803

Telephone 318/329-1200

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** File of Sgt. Jay Via

**DATE:** April 11, 1991

**SUBJECT:** Incident on March 21, 1991

On or about Thursday, March 21, 1991, at 1100 hours, I observed Sgt. Jay Via, on duty, and Cpl. Paul Benjamin, off duty, playing golf at the West Monroe Country Club.

I called Major Worley and informed him of the situation and asked him to call Metro Narcotics for Sgt. Via. He called and asked to speak with Sgt. Via and was told that he was out. Approximately 45 minutes later, I called and asked to speak with Sgt. Via and was informed that he was out of the office.

Later in that afternoon, he came to Major Worley's office unaware that we had been calling for him. Major Worley asked where he had been, and Sgt. Via informed him that he and Cpl. Benjamin had been out putting together a deal. At that time, Major Worley informed me of this, and I instructed him and Sgt. Via to come to my office.

Upon their arrival, I asked Sgt. Via where he had been since I had called for him, and he advised me that he and Benjamin had been out trying to "put together a deal." I asked him "at the golf course," and he seemed stunned.

He then admitted that he and Benjamin had been at the golf course but they had been discussing cases while there.

I told Sgt. Via that I doubted the truthfulness of his answer and that, if he were caught lying about anything and I could prove it, I would suspend him on the spot.

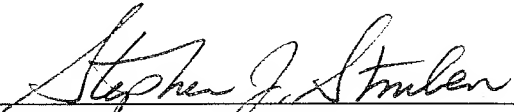
Memo to Via's File

Page 2

April 11, 1991

I also advised him that we would all like to go fishing or play golf, on duty and on the pretense of discussing cases, but that it was not permitted and advised him that it should not happen again.

He told me that he understood me, and I advised him that I was going to place a copy of this incident in his personnel file.

  
STEPHEN J. STRUBEN  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL

  
MICHAEL J. WORLEY, MAJOR

SJS/tg





# Laymon Godwin

SHERIFF AND EX-OFFICIO TAX COLLECTOR  
OUACHITA PARISH

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## CRIMINAL DEPARTMENT

P. O. Box 1803  
MONROE, LOUISIANA 71201  
Telephone 318/329-1200

September 1, 1987

MEMO TO: Sgt. Laura Endsley, Bookkeeping Section  
SUBJECT: Sgt. Jay Via

Please deduct two (2) days pay from Sgt. Jay Via's September paycheck.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Fewell  
Chief Deputy

tg



# Laymon Godwin

SHERIFF AND EX-OFFICIO TAX COLLECTOR  
OUACHITA PARISH

## CRIMINAL DEPARTMENT

P. O. Box 1803  
MONROE, LOUISIANA 71201  
Telephone 318/329-1200

September 1, 1987

Sgt. Jay Via  
Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office  
Monroe, LA 71210

Dear Jay:

A careful review of all reports has been completed concerning your violation of Section 3.66 of the Department Rules and Regulations.

Based upon the recommendations of your supervisor and the concurrence of Sheriff Godwin, the following disciplinary action is administered.

You suspended without pay for a period  
of two (2) days.

These two days pay will be deducted from your September paycheck. We would admonish you to follow all rules and regulations in the use of department equipment.

A copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file maintained by this department.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Fewell  
Chief Deputy

RLF/tg

cc: Major Worley



# Laymon Godwin

SHERIFF AND EX-OFFICIO TAX COLLECTOR  
OUACHITA PARISH

## CRIMINAL DEPARTMENT

P. O. Box 1803  
MONROE, LOUISIANA 71201  
Telephone 318/329-1200

August 31, 1987

Sheriff Laymon Godwin  
Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office  
Monroe, LA 71210

Dear Sheriff:

It has been brought to my attention from Major Worley that in July, 1987, Sgt. Via, who is assigned to Metro Narcotics Unit, used the car that is assigned to him for a trip to Dallas, Texas. This trip was explained by Sgt. Via as a training session.

In relation to the trip, Sgt. Via ran up an expensive repair bill to have the air conditioner fixed on this unit. He also returned through El Dorado, Arkansas. None of this was cleared through Major Worley or any other supervisor.

On August 3, 1987, Sgt. Via was on vacation and used his department vehicle for a private detail. This was also not approved by any supervisors at the Sheriff's Department.

1. At this time, all credit cards have been picked up by Major Worley. Sheriff's Department vehicles assigned to Metro are to gas up at O.C.C. and all maintenance is to be performed at O.C.C.
2. With your concurrence, all maintenance on vehicles while out of town on trips is to be approved by the department head of the deputy's department or the Chief Deputy.
3. I recommend that Sgt. Via be suspended one day without pay for his actions in regards to the above incidents concerning his assigned vehicle.

Sincerely,

  
Richard L. Fewell  
Chief Deputy

2 du off w/o p<sup>27</sup>  
JL

RLF/tg



# Laymon Godwin

SHERIFF AND EX-OFFICIO TAX COLLECTOR  
OUACHITA PARISH

August 17, 1987

## CRIMINAL DEPARTMENT

P. O. Box 1803  
MONROE, LOUISIANA 71201  
Telephone 318/329-1200

Chief Deputy Richard Fewell  
Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office  
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

Dear Chief:

Several months ago I made a recommendation to regulate the use of departmental credit cards (gas) assigned to our Metro Narcotic Officers.

The gasoline credit cards should be used only on approved out of town trips, (approved by the Chief or Sheriff), and the units be gased up at OCC or Ouachita Parish Highway Barn.

It has been brought to my attention that the gasoline credit cards and use of the units assigned to Metro Narcotics have been abused. The abuse, to my knowledge, is directed at Sgt. Jay Via.

The abuse of the vehicle and departmental credit card by Sgt. Via is as follows:

- #1 - July, 1987 trip to Dallas, Texas for "Airport Interdiction" Seminar (2 days). To my knowledge, this trip was not approved by you or the Sheriff. Although it was funded by Metro, the OPSO unit and credit cards were used.

During this trip, Sgt. Via's air conditioner in his unit went out, and he utilized the departmental credit card for repairs at two separate shops. The total amount exceeded \$600.00. Sgt. Via neglected to obtain approval for the major expense and took it upon himself to use the credit card freely.

- #2 - July 11, 1987, (Saturday). Sgt. Via used the departmental vehicle to travel to El Dorado, Arkansas where his wife's parents live. He used the departmental credit card (Exxon) to purchase gas in El Dorado.

Page #2  
August 17, 1987  
Chief Deputy Richard Fewell

#3 - August 3, 1987. Sgt. Via started his vacation and left his unit at OCC. He later returned during his vacation and picked up the unit for use without approval from you or the Sheriff.

The unit was also utilized on a paid detail at the pipeline construction site in Sterlington, Louisiana during this time.

My recommendation concerning Sgt. Via's misuse of the departmental vehicle and credit cards is suspension without pay for not less than one day nor more than three days. In addition, I feel that he be suspended from using the departmental vehicle after normal duty hours for at least 30 days.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL J. WORLEY, MAJOR  
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

MJW/mkt

Date: August 18, 1987

Memo to: Chief Richard Euell

Chief;

In regard to our conversation today, the following is an explanation of the circumstances surrounding the events on July 8, 9 & 10, 1987.

Acting on the authority as Metro Narcotics Unit Commander, I had scheduled a three day training session with The D.E.A. Airport interdiction task force in Dallas, Texas. The original plan of July 7, 8 & 9<sup>th</sup> had been changed ~~to~~, in order to accommodate an on going investigation.

On July 9, 1987, I received a phone call from my wife in El Dorado, Ark informing me that he mother had just undergone ~~some type of~~ an unexpected surgery. Instead of traveling directly home upon leaving Dallas, I traveled to El Dorado to check on my mother-in-law.

The following morning, I  
traveled to Monroe ~~and~~  
and picked up my  
children from my Mother's  
res. My wife arrived  
home the following Sunday.

I should also point out  
that on the morning of  
July 7, 1987, I informed  
Chief LaBonde of the trip  
to Dallas, while we were  
looking at a house for Metro.  
In addition, all gas  
credit card purchases made  
on my O P S O credit card  
were reimbursed to Terri  
Triggory the week following  
my return.

In closing I would like  
to say that in hindsight  
I can now see where  
you should have been  
notified of the trip. However,  
at the time I did not  
see it necessary due to  
the fact that I thought  
the training was strictly  
a Metro Narcotics endeavor.  
I fully see now that that  
was a mistake which  
will not repeat itself in

the future.

I would like to thank  
you for giving me the  
opportunity to express  
the facts as I know them.  
I would also like to thank  
you for the guidance and  
continued assistance you  
have provided me at  
Metco.

Sincerely  
Sgt. J. J. Lee





## Metro Narcotics Unit Ouachita Parish

P. O. Box 1756, West Monroe, LA 71294  
Phone: (318) 322-1960

OK  
7/22/87  
RJ

July 22, 1987

Chief Deputy Richard Fewell  
Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office  
Ouachita Parish Courthouse Annex  
Monroe, Louisiana

Dear Chief,

Due to a need to comply with subpoenas I have received for court appearances the week of July 27th, 1987, I would like to change the dates for my vacation to begin August 3rd, 1987 through August 15th, 1987, instead of July 27th, 1987, through August 8th, 1987. I will also notify the District Attorney's Office of this change for their information in issuing any further subpoenas during this time frame.

Respectfully,

Sgt. Jay Via  
Metro Narcotics Unit  
Unit Commander

JV:tm

cc: Angela Milletello, Felony Section  
Bonnie Jaubert, Misdemeanor Section

5-5-86

Personnel File -

Sgt. Jay Via -

To be opened on the authority of  
the Chief Deputy or the Sheriff  
Alfred M. Calhoun

AMC AM-1

Am-1

①

5-5-86

Reference Sgt. Jay Via

On this date the reports on the homicide investigation of Kathy Thomas were discussed with Sgt. Via. Drayd Worley was present. Via was asked why reports had not been made prior to his going on vacation regarding the following.

1. Interview of Will Kinnard
2. Search of Kinnard's Apt. in Shreveport, La.
3. Information from Shreveport P.D. regarding neighbors who reportedly heard noises, screams, around mid-nite 3-28-86 at or near Kinnard's Apt.

His response was that due to the arrest of Kenneth Magawick that, in his judgement, that this information was not critical. He was informed that all information is important, especially on a major case. It was further related to him that he has a bad track record as far as making reports and that this was unacceptable. He advised he would make detailed reports asap. I informed Via that in the future such delays would not be tolerated.

I will also note that during March or April 1986 Sgt. Via  
see page 2

②

was contacted by me on 3 or 4 occasions in an attempt to get non-evidence items released to the mother of Jackie Wayne Thomas. This lady had been trying to get these items for several weeks prior to my involvement in this matter. The items were not evidence and had been in Via's possession for approximately one year and had not been secured in the Evidence Room.

Also Sgt. Via had to be called back to work on his first day of vacation to make a report concerning John Ellis Jackson Bm who was suspect in a stabbing in the jail. This report was also long overdue and in my opinion does not reflect a job done well.

I am requesting this information be placed in Sgt. Via's personnel file in a sealed folder so it will be available for future use if needed.

Alfred M. Calhoun

Note - This situation was discussed with Lt. Col. Strubben prior to my discussion with Sgt. Via -  
MMC

February 27, 1978

MEMO FOR FILE OF DEPUTY JOHN E. VIA:

John Via, approximately 3 years ago, handled a complaint in which the alleged theft of a ring had transpired. Subsequent to his being assigned the case, the ring was recovered and the complainant did not desire prosecution. Deputy Via brought the ring, according to his own statement, to the courthouse and placed it in his drawer in the Briefing Room. There wasn't any complaint or report made on this incident.

Mr. L. H. Hemphill, in December 1977, asked for his ring back. Deputy Via was interrogated and remembered the incident but does not remember what happened to the ring. No plausible excuse was made as to why he did not make a report.

Deputy Via told other deputies in the Uniform Division that we had accused him of stealing the ring, which is erroneous, and he was admonished on this date, February 27th, for taking a dirty, cheap shot at the department for which he works. Deputy Via was instructed to pay Mr. Hemphill for the ring and bring a receipt and statement as to when and how the ring was paid for.

During this time Deputy Via was given a medical work-up by Dr. Greer, a local neuro-surgeon, to see if there was anything organically or physically wrong with his ability to think and remember. All tests proved to be negative, and Deputy Via is considered to be a normal, healthy human being. The time off from the job while in the hospital, etc. is being charged one-half to his vacation and one-half to sick leave.

A study of Deputy Via's reports and files indicates that he had more than his share of resisting arrest charges against those that he had arrested. Some of the defendants had been arrested by other deputies and they had had no difficulty in placing them under arrest and bringing them to the courthouse. He was cautioned to deal more tolerantly and more effectively with those people being placed under his control for arrest or transportation.

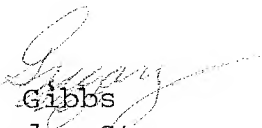
Deputy Via was also informed that the PSE examinations conducted in regards to the lost ring were not in his favor, and that we were stretching the facts to keep him on the job. He was placed

on one year's probation and informed that any infraction of the rules of this department, both from personal conduct, and inefficient performance of duty, would result in his termination.

Copy of this memo will go to Superintendent Gregory, Commander Stevens, Deputy John Via, and the personnel file of Deputy Via.

  
BAILEY GRANT, SHERIFF

BG:fc

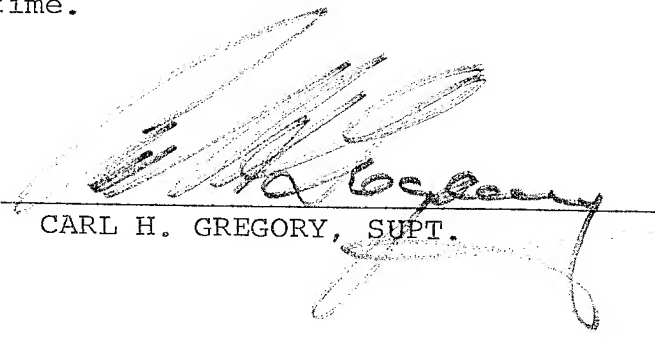
  
cc: Supt. Gibbs  
Commander Stevens  
Deputy John Via  
Personnel File of John Via

November 8, 1976

MEMO:

RE : Jay Via

Beginning August 19, 1976 Jay Via was given three (3) days off without pay for negligence in a vehicle, and was deducted from his vacation time.



CARL H. GREGORY, SUPT.

CHG:fc

cc: Personnel File  
Commander Stevens  
Jay Via